Only urinal facility in car parking area is provided at Pune, Udaipur and Varanasi airports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Aero-Bridge at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai (Domestic)

914. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aero-bridge of Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Mumbai (Domestic) is not working; and

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) One of the two aerobridges presently installed at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (Domestic Terminal) is not working since 10.4.2001 as excessive noise was heard from hoisting column and, on investigation, it was noticed that the unusal sound was from ball screw assembly. On the recommendation made by the manufacturer of the equipment the aerobridge has been taken out of operation, pending repair.

Irregularities in upgrading Y to J class in AI

915. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criterion for upgrading Y class passengers to J class in Air India;

(b) whether it is a fact that AI officials handling first AI flight on 17th September 2001 after September 11, 2001 incident committed gross irregularities in upgrading passengers at New York;

(c) if so, the details thereof giving names of passengers upgraded and the reasons for not upgrading entitled passengers; and

(d) what action Government propose to take against AI officials who were responsible for these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The facility of upgrading is a

valuable marketing tool employed by all airlines to meet competition in the market place. Air India, therefor, extends this facility to upgrade revenue passengers to the next higher class. There exists is clear policy, on the categories of passengers who may be upgraded on flights which are not overbooked. Under this policy, following categories of passengers are upgraded:

(i) Members of the Maharaja Club (Twice a year), (ii) Important commercial contacts or persons who can channelise business on services, (iii) Frequent travellers as an incentive for them to patronise or continue to patronise Air India, (iv) Government of India Officials of the rank of Under Secretary and above from Economy to Executive Class and Joint Secretary and above from Executive to First Class.

(b) and (c) Consequent to the incident at New York on 11th September, 2001 and the closure of air space over USA, Air India was compelled to cancel their daily New York terminator flights till 16.9.01. This led to a large number of passengers being stranded and every efforts was made to accomodate the stranded passengers on subsequent flights upon resumption of the New York/India flights on 17.9.01. Owing to the large number of passengers that had to be accomodated, the AI's airport staff at New York had no choice but to upgrade a few passengers. Two passengers, namely Swamiji Sswishwanandadham and Dr. A.K. Nag were upgraded from Economy to Executive class. A further six passengers also entitled for upgrading on subject to availability basis could not be upgraded due to non-availability of seats.

(d) No irregularity has been committed since the upgradings were done entirely due to Commercial reasons.

Issue of complimentary/concessional tickets by AI/IA

916. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines and Air India have been giving free/ complimentary/concessional tickets for travel in India and abroad;